

# Connections

Celebrating Programs Through Partnerships  
Spring 2001



## From the Superintendent

### Youth Programs at Parks

Young people have always had a second home at Seattle Parks and Recreation.

As City officials and community leaders grapple with the issue of violent crime, particularly after incidents during Seattle's Mardi Gras celebrations, I'd like to offer the example of Parks community programs and facilities as positive alternatives for our youth.

Our community centers, with critical support from Advisory Councils, offer after-school activities, sports, special events, computer classes, weekend and "late night" programs, summer teen camps and much more. The Garfield Teen Life Center is a place for teens to hang out, learn and have fun. Young people are increasingly involved in programs at our two boating centers and four environmental education centers. Teens 15 to 19 also help restore park landscapes, go backpacking and rock climbing, and take part in other outdoor activities through the Teens for Recreation and Environmental Conservation (TREC) program. During the summer months, youth volunteer 80 hours of service over four weeks as part of the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) program.

In addition to these and other regular programs and activities for teens, Seattle Parks supports special projects through the Teen Matching Fund. This year, I am pleased to announce that a total of \$45,000 will be divided among the following teen programs:

- **Aquarium Teen Naturalist Program**
- **Garfield Environment/Life Skills Project**
- **TREC – Junior Naturalist Program** for stipends for teen instructors at environmental education centers
- **Expeditions in Ecosystems** for a 10-week program at community centers and parks
- **Teens in Parks** for a stewardship program for Cowen and Ravenna parks
- **Environmental Science/Art Teen Camp** for programs at the Aquarium, Alki Art Studio, and Camp Long
- **Alki CC Summer Teen Program**
- **Images of the Beach** for environmental education and a community service project at Rainier Beach Complex
- **South Park Summer Teen Campouts and Big Deal Day** for two campouts and a community service project
- **Youth Asset Building and Mentoring Project** at Southwest Complex and High Point Community Center
- **Cultural Teen Cooking**
- **Seattle 4H Teen Ambassador Science**

We are working more closely than ever with advisory councils, community and business partners, and families to provide safe, welcoming and enriching opportunities for people of all ages—but especially for our young people.

— Ken Bounds,  
Superintendent

## From the Prez

### Keeping Pace

This is the best of times for users and lovers of our many parks throughout the city. The 1999 Community Center Levy will build four brand new community centers and improve or replace five others; last year's Pro Parks Levy heralds new open spaces, sports fields, parks, programming and maintenance over the course of the next eight years.

It is important for advisory councils to keep pace with our growing parks system. At the Associated Recreation Council's annual retreat last February, board members rallied around the need to assist advisory councils. Unlike previous retreats, when we identified our top ten goals, this year we identified only three goals, all focused on helping advisory councils achieve maximum potential.

We revived the liaison program, and by this time, a liaison ARC board member should have personally visited most of the advisory councils. As always, we continue to meet in different community centers every quarter. We are asking advisory councils members from these facilities to meet with us during our meetings and explain how the ARC board can assist them.

The next ARC board meeting is on July 11 at 7 p.m. Watch for an announcement, including meeting location, in your mail.

— Jackie Ramels, ARC Board President

### Boating Councils Take on Major Projects

Advisory Councils are instrumental in the operation and programming of our recreation facilities, but also in major renovations and new construction.

The Green Lake Rowing Advisory Council and the Mount Baker Boating Advisory Council have both undertaken the huge task of raising money for building projects.

A project to improve and expand space at the Green Lake Small Craft Center was in the preliminary planning stages when the earthquake hit. In fact, the first planning session was scheduled for February 28, the night the 6.8 temblor shook the region and severely damaged the center's shellhouse. The building is still closed and will need significant repairs. The project is now on a fast track, supported by an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

The Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center Advisory Council has been moving forward on a project to add a new building to provide more space for boat storage, indoor meeting and program space and locker rooms for participants. The council has received a planning grant from the Department of Neighborhoods, retained a design firm, and is moving steadily ahead. "We've had great community support," said Advisory Council President Jack Lane. Construction is estimated to begin in 2002.



**Youth jazz group plays in Magnolia.**